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Dawley Urban District Council

INTERIM REPORT

on the

Health and Sanitary
Conditions

of the

Dawley Urban District

for the year 1947

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DAWLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1947.

Chairman :

MRS. A. BIRD.

Committee :

MR. I. BAUGH.

DR. S. N. BROWNE.

MR. G. CHETWOOD.

MR. J. NICKLESS.

MR. E. PARGETER.

Staff :

DR. W. A. M. STEWART.

MR. E. POTTER, Sanitary Inspector.

MR. H. E. PHILLIPS, Surveyor (for Sewerage and Water).

Dawley Urban District Council

This Report is again presented in an abbreviated form to comply with the requirements of the Ministry of Health. More detailed information, however, has been given in relationship to factories, and, in this connection, particulars, under separate cover, have been supplied to the Ministry of Labour.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

This has been a year in which Measles has been epidemic and while there has been also a rise in the number of cases of Whooping Cough the latter fell much behind those of measles. The incidence of Scarlet Fever has been very low but Diphtheria accounted for six cases, all located in a particular quarter of the Town and having relationship with the local school. One child died of this complaint.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS.

Despite the widespread nature of the epidemic which spread over the Country in the summer and autumn, no outbreak was experienced in the district.

Vital Statistics.

BIRTHS.

The Birth Rate has given a final analysis above that for England and Wales, while the Deaths in this category have given an average lower than that corresponding.

GENERAL DEATHS.

The final assessment shows that the Death Rate is lower than that of the Country and marks a fall from that of the previous year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The total of the Registers has remained almost constant. Few new cases have been added and the deaths recorded have been limited to two: both from the pulmonary type of this disease. The resultant comparable average is satisfactory.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The year has been devoted to the maintenance of general services and where advance, however slowly, could be made, this has been done. Housing, Sewerage and means for improvement in dealing with the considerable ramifications of Refuse and Night-Soil Collection have been in the forefront.

In presenting this Report, the Medical Officer of Health takes this opportunity of thanking his Colleagues for their courtesy and continuous co-operation in the working of the Department and in the compilation of this Report.

SECTION "A."

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	3,000
Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population ..	8,128
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1947) according to Rate Books	2,340
Rateable Value	£18,853
Sum represented by one penny rate	£74
Persons per acre (calculated on population)	2.7

POPULATION.

The Registrar General's Return shows that a slight rise in total population has been assessed. Of the residents it is more than ever evidenced that the gravitation for market and shopping purposes and general amusement is to the Wellington centre. In the field of recreation facilities are available locally for tennis and football and a committee has recently been formed to develop outdoor sport on much more ambitious lines in a central site of the Town. On the completion of this scope should be given for cricket, football, bathing and other organised games. A Rest Room for the Aged has been opened, through the energy of a small local committee and, as a Memorial to the Fallen, Gates are to be erected at the entrance to the Park and these should be in use early in 1948.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

LIVE BIRTHS.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Totals.</i>
Legitimate	88	97	185
Illegitimate	11	10	21
Totals	99	107	206

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	25.3
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population (England and Wales)	20.5

STILL BIRTHS.

			<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Totals.</i>
Legitimate	..	..	2	1	3
Illegitimate	..	..	—	—	—
Totals	..		2	1	3

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births 14·3

DEATHS.

		<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Totals.</i>
Total number of deaths	..	49	41	90
Death Rate per 1,000 of population	.. ..			11·1
Death Rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales)	..			12·0

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

All Infants, per 1,000 live births	.. ..	..	..	38·8
All Infants, per 1,000 live births (England and Wales)	..			41
Legitimate Infants, per 1,000 live legitimate births	..			32·4
Illegitimate Infants, per 1,000 live illegitimate births	..			95·2

Total number of Infant Deaths.	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	1	5	6
Illegitimate	2	—	2
Deaths from : Cancer (all ages)	..	..	.. 13
Measles (all ages)	..	..	.. —
Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	.. —
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	..	..	.. —

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Under this heading there were no deaths.

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH.

Tuberculosis (all forms)	..	..	..	..	.. 2
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	.. —
Measles	..	..	..	..	.. —
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	.. 1
Maternal Causes	..	..	..	..	.. —
Cancer	..	..	..	..	.. 13
Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	..	..	..	..	.. 18
Heart Disease and Circulatory Disturbances	..	..	..	..	.. 24
Respiratory Diseases	..	..	..	..	.. 8
Influenza	..	..	..	..	.. —
Nephritis	..	..	..	..	.. —
Premature Births and Congenital Malformations	..	..	..	..	.. 5
Diabetes	..	..	..	..	.. —
Abdominal Disease	..	..	..	..	.. 4
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	..	..	..	..	.. —
Violence	..	..	..	..	.. 2

SECTION " B."

General Provision for Health Services in the Area.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

This, centred at Donnington, has had a full year of working. As a result of observation over that period, it can be said that the change has made for better service, and has relieved the Authority of the need for local supervision. Under the Health Scheme ambulances will be a responsibility of the County Council but, while the financial obligations and servicing will pass from the area, opportunity will still be afforded for representation on the sub-committee, meeting nearby, and interest should be maintained.

MORTUARY SERVICE.

It had been hoped that by joint working it would be possible to have adequate facilities for this service by this time, but progress towards adaption of the existing premises at Donnington has been slow. At the time of writing, it is expected that the Ministry of Health will, very shortly, give sanction for this work and the changes should be able to be completed in a short time. The new offices should meet all the needs of the enlarged area for which it is intended.

SECTION " C."

Refuse Disposal and Collection.

No. of Parishes in district. 5.

No. of Parishes where refuse is collected. 5.

Frequency. *Weekly.*

Methods of collection (direct labour or contract). *Direct labour.*

Mechanised or horse transport? *Mechanised transport.*

Methods of disposal (tipping or incineration). *Tipping.*

Dustbins. *Are supplied by owners of property.*

Is controlled tipping in operation? *No.*

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS. An improvement in this service has been shown during the year, a weekly collection now being established. This may be attributed to the arrival and putting into service of a new and larger refuse vehicle and the alteration in the collection system. The men now work on a " stint " basis That is, a certain district to be cleared of refuse is allocated for each day and when that is finished the men can leave work. This

system is working very well at present. Controlled tipping is not practised at the moment, owing to the number of tips in operation. When the new cesspool emptier is in operation it is hoped to be able to close all the tips but one and give more attention to the tip which will be in operation. A large number of bins have also been supplied to householders as a result of letters to owners, and in many of these cases bins had not been in use before but refuse had been dumped in unsightly heaps awaiting removal.

SALVAGE SYSTEM.

Salvage is collected by the refuse collectors. Various persons have given their services voluntarily and made themselves responsible for certain areas. The refuse vehicle then makes a special call to the homes of these people to remove whatever salvage they have collected.

Vehicles. *Refuse Collection Lorry.*

Personnel. *Refuse Collectors.*

Storage. *Depot in King Street.*

Profit or Loss. *Loss.*

COMMENTS. Various youth organisations and the W.V.S. are now assisting with the collection of waste paper and an improvement has been shown. Owing to the difficulties of collection and baling and to the scattered nature of the district it is not likely that this service will prove an economic proposition unless the collection continues to be carried out by voluntary services.

DISINFESTATION AND CONTROL OF VERMIN.

Rat Control. *The County Council is the authority for administering the act and any complaints of rats are, after investigation, passed on to the appropriate department of the County Council.*

Private Properties. *There have been very few complaints regarding rats in private properties, and where they have occurred they have been dealt with by the County Council with the occupier's consent.*

Council Undertakings. *Rats occurring in Council undertakings have been dealt with by the County Council under contract with the Local Authority.*

Industrial and Public Undertakings. *There have been no complaints of rats in industrial or public undertakings during the year.*

VERMIN CONTROL.

Person. *There have been no cases of verminous persons to report during the year.*

Clothes and Bedding. *There have been no cases of verminous clothes or bedding to report during the year.*

Homes. *Four houses were sprayed during the year for bug infestation and one house for flea infestation.*

COMMENTS. None of these cases, except one proved to be a very heavy infestation of vermin, and there was no further evidence of infestation after the first treatment. The exceptional case proved to be a very heavy infestation of bugs in a Council house, necessitating the removal of picture rails, skirtings and architraves in order to effectively destroy the bugs.

Water.

1. No. and source of water schemes of which the District Council is the Water Undertaker. *One.*
No. of houses served by (1) (in parishes separately). *Total of 2,334 approximately.*
Population served by (1). *8,000 approximately.*
2. No. and source of water schemes owned by private persons. *None.*
No. of houses served by (2). *None.*
Population served by (2). *None.*
3. No. of houses served by private wells. *Unknown.*
Population served by (3). *Unknown.*
4. No. of houses supplied by standpipe (in parishes separately). *Unknown.*
5. Has any water supply in the district been unsatisfactory in quality and/or quantity. If so, give particulars. *One sample of water proved unsatisfactory. This was after cleaning of the reservoirs and due to the presence of feocal Coli. Subsequent samples proved satisfactory on analysis.*
- 5a. Chlorination. *This is practised at the source of supply.*
6. SAMPLING.

<i>Supply</i>	<i>No. of Bact. Exams.</i>	<i>No. of Chem. Exams.</i>	<i>Before/After Chlorination.</i>	<i>Satis- factory.</i>	<i>Unsatis- factory.</i>
Mains Supply from Wenlock.	10	3	After.	9 3	1

7. Extensions or repairs to existing Water Works. *Electric pumps installed and transfer to automatic operation in place of oil engines.*
8. Extensions or repairs to existing Water Mains. *None.*
- 8a. New connections to homes, etc. *16.*
9. Difficulties met with during year in relation to works or mains — such as lack of supply, pressure, machinery, breakdowns, etc. *Lack of supply during and after thaw owing to excessive leakage. Lack of supply during summer for three days owing to excessive consumption. lack of pressure at Station Road owing to heavy draw-off.*
10. New Water Works or Water Main Schemes inaugurated or work commenced. *Joint scheme with Wellington R.D.C. for laying of new main from Shifnal and construction of Pumping Station and two reservoirs have been commenced.*
11. General Observations. *Further progress has been made in the formation of a Joint Water Board combining the Authorities of the Eastern Area. Plans are well in advance and the transference of undertakings will be completed in 1949.*

PUBLIC BATHS AND WASH-HOUSES.

There are no public baths or wash-houses in the district.

GENERAL SANITARY MATTERS DEALT WITH DURING YEAR.

1. Premises in such a state as to be a nuisance (excluding structural matters). *37.*
2. New closets or drains provided or old amended. *57.*
3. Offensive Accumulations. *There was one offensive accumulation to deal with during the year and was dealt with by verbal notice to the person responsible. Other accumulations of ashes which had accumulated during the bad weather of the previous year have now been cleared.*
4. Animals in such a state as to be a nuisance. *Nil.*
5. Smoke nuisance. *Nil.*
6. Nuisances arising from water courses, ditches, etc. *4.*
7. Offensive Cases. *Nil.*
8. Common Lodging Houses. *Nil.*
9. Public Lavatories. *One for males and one for females attended to and kept clean and satisfactory by the Local Authority.*

SHOPS ACTS, 1912-1934.

No. of premises inspected. *24.*

Action taken with respect to any defects found. *None.*

PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT.

There are two cinemas in the district, one of which was inspected and found to be clean and satisfactory.

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

There are six elementary schools in the district. One was found to have defective water closets and in consequence of informal notice served on the school managers, two new ranges of W.C.s and a length of new drain has been installed. At another school, repairs to closets, playground, roof, ceilings and additional heating apparatus have been effected through representation to the Local Education Authority.

SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

1. No. of sewage works owned by District Council (Parishes.)
Four outfall areas.
No. of Houses dealt with by public sewers. 843.
2. No. of private sewage disposal works. *Unknown.*
No. of houses dealt with by these. *Unknown.*
3. No. of houses with privies or pail closets. 1,126.
4. Extensions or repairs to existing Sewage Works or Sewers.
None.
5. New Schemes for works or sewers inaugurated during the year. *Dawley Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme, Part I, was commenced during the year.*
6. Difficulties, if any, encountered in operating works or sewers. *Considerable difficulties have been encountered owing to the dilapidated condition of the existing Sewers and lack of proper outfall works, the existing lagoons have become saturated.*
7. General Observations. *The outfalls and sludge lagoons which have for many years been inadequate for the population, have required the closest control and supervision by the Surveyor.*

SECTION "D."

Housing.

NEW COUNCIL HOUSES, PERMANENT HOUSES.

Total No. of Houses in schemes sanctioned by the Ministry of Health :

(a) Traditional. 40.

(b) Prefabricated. *Nil.*

Total No. of Houses for which sites are prepared in 1947: 90

Total No. of Houses completed. 29.

No. of Houses completed in 1947. 29.

No. of Houses in progress. 11.

New schemes inaugurated. *Awaiting the approval of the Ministry.*

TEMPORARY HOUSES.

Total No. of Houses in schemes sanctioned by Ministry of Health. *Nil.*

Total No. of Houses for which sites are prepared. *Nil.*

Sites prepared in 1947. *Nil.*

Total No. of Houses completed. *Nil.*

No. of Houses completed in 1947. *Nil.*

NEW PRIVATE HOUSES.

No. of plans for new houses submitted. 5.

No. of plans for new houses passed and licenced. *Nil.*

No. of new houses completed. 4.

No. of new houses in progress. 1.

EXISTING HOUSES.

Clearance Areas and Industrial Unfit Houses. *No action regarding clearance areas has yet been taken owing to the inability to rehouse the persons displaced.*

RECONDITIONING.

Housing (Rural Workers) Act. *Nil.*

OVERCROWDING.

There are a number of overcrowded houses in the district which are being dealt with where possible by selection from the list of applicants for Council houses. No formal action has been taken regarding the abatement of overcrowding owing to the inability to find alternative accommodation. There is no record of the number of overcrowded houses other than those which have come to light through application for Council houses.

HOUSING REPAIRS.

No. of Houses inspected under Public Health or Housing Acts. 79.

No. of Inspections made for the purpose. 236.

No. of defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit by informal action. 36.

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS :—

(a) Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of Housing Act, 1936—

No. of Houses requiring repair. *Nil.*

No. of Houses rendered fit after formal action. *Nil.*

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

No. of Houses requiring repair. 15.

No. of Houses in which defects remedied after formal action. 13.

COUNCIL HOUSES.

Repairs and General Management. *Repairs are carried out by direct labour and contract, according to the nature of the work.*

Army hutments occupied by squatters and under supervision by District Council. *Nil.*

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS. *Two.*

Two applications were made during the year for licences to park moveable dwellings. One licence was refused and the occupier subsequently prosecuted for parking a caravan without a licence. One licence was granted.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

There are many unfit houses in the area but owing to the lack of building labour and materials, only work essential for maintaining weatherproof conditions has been carried out. Many owners of properties served with informal notices to carry out repairs have placed their orders with local builders but in many cases they have had to wait several months before receiving attention from the builders.

SECTION "E."

Meat and Other Foods.

The District continues to be served from the central abattoir at Shrewsbury, and such meat is subject to re-examination, locally, as is required.

FOOD PREMISES.

No. of Premises where food is sold, prepared or stored. 79.

No. of Inspections of above. 19.

Action taken in respect of deficiencies found under Section 13 (F. & D. Act, 1938). *Verbal warnings given to occupiers of 6 premises to cleanse walls and ceilings.*

No. of Premises registered under Section 14 (F. & D. Act, 1938)—

(a) Manufacture of meat products. 13.

(b) Ice-Cream manufacturers. 1.

No. of Inspections of above. 14.

Action taken in respect of deficiencies found under Section 13 (F. & D. Act, 1938). *Registration of one food preparer was suspended until the premises are made to comply with Section 13.*

1. No. of Slaughter Houses in district. 5.
2. No. of Persons licenced to stun and slaughter animals in slaughter houses and knackers' yards. 16.
3. Action taken with regard to inspections of slaughter houses, shops, stalls, and vehicles, and places where food is prepared. *The slaughter of animals intended for sale for human consumption is carried out at Shrewsbury and consequently except for the slaughter of occasional cottagers' pigs for home consumption the existing slaughter houses in the district are not now in use. Generally speaking, meat shops have been satisfactory and it is noted that traders are now improving their premises by painting and decoration, etc., of their own volition.*

ICE CREAM.

No ice cream was manufactured in the district during the year, but ice cream was sold by retail from a motor van coming from outside the district.

OTHER FOODS INSPECTION.

<i>Tinned Foods Condemned.</i>					
			<i>No. of tins.</i>	<i>Miscellaneous.</i>	
				<i>Kind of Food.</i>	<i>No. of tins.</i>
Meat	..	..	1	Stew	6
Fish	..	..	5	Cheese	4
Fruit	..	..	20	Sausage ..	2
Vegetables	..	..	9		
Milk	..	..	449		

FRESH AND DRIED FOODS CONDEMNED.

<i>Fish.</i>		<i>Fruit.</i>	
<i>Kind.</i>	<i>Weight in lbs.</i>	<i>Kind.</i>	<i>Weight in lbs.</i>
Herrings ..	196 lbs.	—	—

<i>Vegetables.</i>		<i>Miscellaneous.</i>	
<i>Kind.</i>	<i>Weight in lbs.</i>	<i>Kind.</i>	<i>Weight in lbs.</i>
—	—	Bacon	18 lbs.
—	—	Ham	8 lbs.

BRITISH RESTAURANT. *Nil.*

MILK.

No. of cowkeepers and milksellers on register. 32.

No. of premises. Cowsheds. 21.

Dairies. 6.

Milkshops. *Nil.*

No. of above cowkeepers and milksellers who hold licences under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936, in respect of—

	<i>Tuber- culin Tested.</i>	<i>Accred- ited.</i>	<i>Pasteur- ised.</i>
(a) Establishments of producers and bottlers	—	—	—
(b) Establishments of producers only	1	6	—
(c) Establishments of bottlers only	—	—	—
(d) Shops and other premises not being the establishment at which the milk is produced or bottled	1	—	—
(e) Supplementary licences to sell milk from shops or other establishment outside the area of the licensing authority	1	—	1

No. of inspections. 6.

Action taken with regard to defects found. *Verbal notices to limewash premises.*

COMMENTS.

Two "Dealers' Licences" have been issued in respect of "T.T." milk which is produced and bottled outside Dawley but is retailed in this area. One producer has changed over from "Accredited" to "T.T." during the year.

SECTION "F."

FACTORIES ACT, 1937. PART 1.

<i>Inspections.</i>	<i>No. on Regis- ter.</i>	<i>No. of Inspec- tions.</i>	<i>No. of Written Notices.</i>	<i>No. of Occup- iers Prose- cuted.</i>
(1) Factories in which 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 sections are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	1	Nil	Nil
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	26	5	Nil	Nil
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	1	1	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	32	7	Nil	Nil

Cases in which Defects were found. *Nil.*

PART 8 OF THE ACT. Outwork Sections 110 and 111.

COMMENTS.

Absence of water borne sanitation seems to be the major deficiency with regard to factories, and owing to the absence of adequate sewers this problem will not be easy to overcome. In two cases, however, representation has been made to the management for conversion to the water carriage system with disposal of sewage by private sewage disposal plants. The result is that plans are now being prepared by the Company's architects for the installation of septic tanks and filters when labour and materials are more readily available.

SECTION " G. "

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious and Allied Diseases.

The following table gives the number of cases of infectious disease notified during the Year, together with the number of Deaths :—

<i>Disease.</i>	<i>Cases notified.</i>		<i>Deaths.</i>
	1946	1947	
Scarlet Fever	9	4	—
Whooping Cough ..	57	75	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—
Measles	3	206	—
Diphtheria	—	6	1
Acute Pneumonia ..	30	15	1
Dysentery	3	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ..	—	—	—
Cerebrospinal Fever ..	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	1	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	5	—

INCIDENCE OF DISEASE IN VARIOUS AGE GROUPS.

<i>Years.</i>	<i>Scarlet Fever.</i>		<i>Whooping Cough.</i>		<i>Measles.</i>		<i>Diphtheria.</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
0	—	—	2	4	1	7	—	—
1	—	—	6	8	22	21	—	—
3	1	—	10	12	26	24	1	1
5	1	2	15	17	50	43	1	—
10	—	—	—	—	3	6	—	2
15	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
25	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
ageun-known	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Total</i>	2	2	33	42	103	103	2	4

<i>Years.</i>	<i>Pneumonia</i>	
	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
0	1	1
5	1	1
15	4	2
45	1	2
65	1	1
age unknown	—	—
<i>Total</i>	8	7

SCABIES.

Since the closure of the clinic at Newport which served this District few cases of this contagion have come to notice and such as have have been able to be treated in their homes or at the school clinics.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

No change has been made in the dual administration of this scheme.

		<i>Over 1 but under 5 years.</i>	<i>5 years but under 15</i>	<i>Total.</i>
No. of children immunised ..		450	900	1350
Estimated child population ..		750	1240	1990
Approximate percentage ..		60%	73%	

TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of notified cases on the Register at December 31st, 1947, and the comparative numbers for 1945 and 1946, are as follows :—

	<i>Males.</i>		<i>Females.</i>		<i>Total.</i>
	<i>Pulmonary</i>	<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	<i>Pulmonary</i>	<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
1945	37	38	39	32	146
1946	41	36	36	33	146
1947	41	36	37	34	148

NEW CASES.

Pulmonary, 4. Non-Pulmonary, 2. Total, 6.

DEATH RATES.

	<i>Dawley.</i>	<i>England and Wales.</i>
Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis per 1,000 population ..	·25	·47
Death Rate from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis per 1,000 population	—	·079
Total Death Rate (all forms) ..	·25	·549

There were 2 deaths from Pulmonary and none from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY TABLE, 1947.

Age Group.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-15	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
15-25	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-45	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55-65	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
65—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	2	2	—	2	1	1	—	—

CANCER.

The number of deaths from Cancer in 1947 was 7 males and 6 females. Total, 13.

	Dawley.	England and Wales.
Death Rate per 1,000,000 living	1599	1853

(Signed)

W. A. M. STEWART,

Medical Officer of Health.

Date, 19th June, 1948.

